

WASHINGTON – U.S. Representative John W. Olver and state Senator Stephen M. Brewer announced today that they have secured a \$340,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to restore the Gilbertville Covered Bridge.

The grant was awarded to the Massachusetts Highway Department for restoration of the Gilbertville Covered Bridge, a historic landmark in Ware, Massachusetts.

"The 116-year-old Gilbertville Bridge is a unique asset that links old New England charm with the present," said Representative Olver. "It is a bridge that has stood the test of time and is a testament to the craftsmanship of the past."

"The Gilbertville Covered Bridge is of major historic American significance and is the only bridge in the state that has been restored to its original condition," said Senator Brewer.

The Gilbertville Bridge, spanning the Ware River and connecting Ware and Hardwick, is one of the most beautiful and historic bridges in the state.

Both the Hardwick and Ware select boards voted unanimously to pursue a historically accurate, well-maintained restoration of the bridge.

State Rep. Reed V. Hillman said, "This is fantastic news for Ware and Hardwick. This money is the first step in restoring this historic landmark to its original glory."

State Rep. Anne M. Gobi said, "I appreciate the cooperation and assistance from Congressman Olver and Senator Brewer in securing this grant for the restoration of the Gilbertville Bridge."

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